**Evidence for Connected Continents Questions**

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**Fossil Evidence Puzzle Questions:**

1. Are there any continents you were not able to place in the puzzle? Why or why not?
2. Use the “Continental Drift: Piecing Together Alfred Wegener’s Evidence” key and the fossil evidence puzzle to fill in the following information for the fossil evidence:

**Plant Fossils**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **When found****(millions of years ago)** | **Where found****(Use the puzzle to list the continents)** |
| North American Flora |  |  |
| European Flora |  |  |

**Animal Fossils**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **When found****(millions of years ago)** | **Where it lived** | **Swimming ability** |
| Mesosaurus |  |  |  |
| Cynognathus |  |  |  |
| Lystrosaurus |  |  |  |

1. How does the information you recorded about the animal fossils support the conclusion that they did not end up on different continents by swimming across the oceans? (Be sure to discuss all 3 animals!)

1. There are two distinct groups of plant fossils that were part of Wegener’s evidence – the North American flora and the European flora. How does the location and age of these fossils help support Wegener’s conclusion that the continents were connected?

**Rock Evidence Puzzle Questions:**

1. Use the “Continental Drift: Piecing Together Alfred Wegener’s Evidence” key to fill in the following information for the rock evidence:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Color in Key** | **When formed****(millions of years ago)** | **Type of rock** |
| Red |  |  |
| Yellow |  |  |
| Brown |  |  |

1. What type of rock is found in both the red and orange areas on the rock evidence puzzle? How does this, along with what the continents these rocks are found on are like today, help support Wegener’s conclusion that the continents had moved over time?

1. How does the rock evidence support the fossil evidence? (Hint: Compare where the rock evidence is and where the fossil evidence is on the puzzle.)
2. How does the rock evidence provide support for location of the continents in Pangaea that the fossil evidence did not? (Hint: What continents could you place in the rock evidence puzzle that you could not place in the fossil evidence puzzle?)

1. If you were a scientist at the time Wegener presented his idea of Pangaea and the evidence to support it, would you agree with his conclusion? Or would you still think the land bridge idea was a valid idea? Why?